



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- PRESS RELEASE -

BYSIEWICZ HONORS DOZENS OF 10 YEAR-OLDS FROM ACROSS CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR AWARD WINNING POSTERS

CONNECTICUT'S POSTER CHILDREN: BLENDING ART WITH A MESSAGE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Hartford – Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz joined dozens of 4th graders from across Connecticut on Thursday May 15th at the Old Judiciary Room in the State Capitol for the awards ceremony for the Secretary of the State's 11th Annual Poster Contest. Secretary Bysiewicz honored 25 students – selected from a field of more than 1,000 entrants – for their posters depicting acts of good citizenship happening in their community.

“We have reviewed more than 11,000 posters since this contest began more than a decade ago,” said Bysiewicz, “and this year’s winners should be proud that their works are among the very best.”

The top five posters came from students in the towns of Newington, Norwich, Stratford, Trumbull, and Watertown and included the following themes: voting, donating clothes, volunteering for charities, recycling, and improving the environment.

“After years of sagging interest and participation young people are registering to vote in droves,” said Bysiewicz. “If we really want to get younger people more involved, we must engage them early and often. This poster contest is a great way to do that – to get students thinking about how they can each be good citizens.”

Five winning posters were selected from divisions established by the Office of the Secretary of the State. Each division consisted of a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner, along with two students who received honorable mention. Every student honored at Thursday's

event received a \$25 gift certificate from Barnes & Noble bookstore and a copy of Ella: A Biography of Governor Ella Grasso autographed by Secretary Bysiewicz.

Student information is listed below:

1st Division

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Town</u>
1 st	Renata Pastuszak	Saint Mary Catholic School	Newington
2 nd	Kaitlin Pearce	Highland Park School	Manchester
3 rd	Jenna Toth	Highland Park School	Manchester
Hon. Men.	Kaila Rivera	Keeney School	Manchester
Hon. Men.	Matthew Pynzar	Keeney School	Manchester

2nd Division

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Town</u>
1 st	Liliana Chong Cay	Saint Patrick Cathedral	Norwich
2 nd	Justin Park	Saint Paul School	Berlin
3 rd	Evan McKinnon	Saint Paul School	Berlin
Hon. Men.	William Haertel	Eli Whitney	Enfield
Hon. Men.	Andrew Hudlow	Saint Paul School	Berlin

3rd Division

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Town</u>
1 st	Gabriela Piers	Lordship School	Stratford
2 nd	Gabrielle Curtis	Edgewood School	New Haven
3 rd	Kristin Chanthinith	Farm Hill School	Middletown
Hon. Men.	Taylor Swanson	Farm Hill School	Middletown
Hon. Men.	Isabelle Breier	Beecher Road Intermediate School	Woodbridge

4th Division

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Town</u>
1 st	Krysta Caltabiano	Saint Catherine of Siena School	Trumbull
2 nd	Jennifer Villeda	Saint Andrew School	Bridgeport
3 rd	Jennifer Carriera	All Saints Catholic School	Norwalk
Hon. Men.	Jailene Rodriguez	Edison School	Bridgeport
Hon. Men.	Samantha Rudini	Saint Catherine of Siena School	Trumbull

5th Division

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Town</u>
1 st	Emily Fritz	Latimer Lane School	Simsbury
2 nd	Emily Rosenberg	Latimer Lane School	Simsbury
3 rd	Morgan Locandro	Squadron Line School	Simsbury
Hon. Men.	Hannah Tower	Sarah Noble Intermediate School	New Milford
Hon. Men.	Corey Fischer	Squadron Line School	Simsbury

Photos of winners available upon request.

